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1970/01/00

DEPARTMENT OF STATE Jan 1970

Statistics on Civilian Casualties in the War in South Viet-Nam

As we have stated earlier, we do not have, nor is there any way of obtaining, a reliable figure on the number of civilians killed or wounded in the war. The following statistics are the only ones of which we are aware that bear on the problem.

1. Admissions of Vietnamese civilians to South Vietnamese and US Military hospitals due to war-related causes (since January 1967). As of October 31, 1969, AID/Washington, the official custodian of these figures, carried 195,583. AID/Saigon carried 198,338 and publicly released this figure on December 3, 1969. AID/Washington has queried the field on the discrepancy and is awaiting reply. New admissions in November 1969 totaled 4,440. Using Saigon's figure, the cumulative total becomes 202,778 as of November 30.

2. Civilian victims of Viet Cong terrorism since 1965, as of December 31, 1969:

   Killed : 19,157*
   Abducted: 32,174*

   Since 1967, nearly 36,000 civilians have been wounded in acts of Viet Cong terrorism.

   *excludes data for February 1968, for which no reliable statistics are available. The GVN claimed that 7,400 civilians were killed in the Tet offensive of February 1968.

3. Civilian deaths due to enemy attacks on population centers have been reported since November 1968 through military channels. As of December 31, 1969, this total was 700.